

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Toyoda-Koki TRW Automotive, Inc.

Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership

TMEP Helps Toyoda-Koki Become Even More Productive

Client Profile:

Toyoda-Koki Automotive North America is a publicly held, first tier supplier to the automotive industry. The company, located in Morristown, Tennessee, employs approximately 490 people.

Situation:

Toyoda-Koki, a leader in productivity and in the production of high quality automotive components, had a strong desire to constantly improve in all areas. A highly 'lean' operation, the company wanted to move its productivity even higher and on to the next level. Clearly, standard, entry level lean techniques would not do. The situation called for leading edge assistance. Mr. Mike Davidson, Toyoda-Koki's Plant Operations Manager, contacted the Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership (TMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance in obtaining an advanced level Lean Manufacturing assessment of his operation with recommendations for further improving the efficiency and quality output of his plant.

Solution:

TMEP's Field Consultant and Regional Manager, Mr. C.J. "Jim" Slizewski, arranged for the TMEP Lean Manufacturing Fellow, Dr. Rupy Sawhney, and a team of his Industrial Engineering graduate assistants to perform a comprehensive, advanced level lean manufacturing assessment of Toyoda-Koki operations. In addition to providing many on-scene observations and recommendations, Dr. Sawhney's team provided a detailed report of their findings and recommendations to company management.

Toyoda-Koki management embraced the TMEP lean manufacturing assessment and its recommendations and quickly began implementation activities. The success of this project is leading Toyoda-Koki to pursue follow-on activities with TMEP.

Results:

- * Saved \$500,000 in costs for labor.
- * Reduced inventory by \$175,000.

Testimonial:

"The TMEP lean manufacturing assessment allowed our team to quantify our best practices and direct our efforts in a methodical manner toward areas that would provide our company the most benefit. Our previous approach utilized lean tools in individual areas. The TMEP lean manufacturing assessment illustrated how linking process with more balanced production and smooth flow would optimize our efforts."

Mr. Mike Davidson, Director of Manufacturing, Toyoda-Koki Automotive North America

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